[13th December 1938

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Government have received reports which show different conditions in different districts. There have been complaints about difficulty in getting private money-lenders to lend money to agriculturists as well as that evasions are being resorted to in respect of entries in documents about rate of interest."

Credit facilities availed of by agriculturists from co-operative societies since the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act.

*78 *Q.*—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, since the passing of the Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, agriculturists have availed themselves of the credit facilities offered by the co-operative societies; and

(*b*) if so, whether the co-operative credit societies have been able to meet the growing demand on them?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) The following figures indicate that agriculturists have availed themselves to a greater extent than before of the credit facilities offered by co-operative societies. Agricultural credit societies issued loans to the extent of Rs. 110·97 lakhs in 1937–38 as against Rs. 96·17 lakhs in 1936–37 and sale societies issued loans to the extent of Rs. 62·12 lakhs in 1937–38 as against Rs. 26·16 lakhs in 1936–37. From the date of the passing of the Act to 31st July 1938 central banks issued loans to the extent of Rs. 47·08 lakhs to agricultural credit societies and Rs. 29·64 lakhs to sale societies as against Rs. 36·40 lakhs and Rs. 13·14 lakhs respectively during the corresponding period of the previous year.

"(*b*) Yes."

Steps, if any, for affording debt relief among agricultural labourers.

*79 *Q.*—DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether any steps are under contemplation for relieving the burden of debt among the padiyals or panniyals and other agricultural labourers in the Presidency?

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The matter is under consideration."